

**Amendments in the Claims:** (struck-through parts deleted and underlined parts added)

1. (currently amended) A spare tire holding assembly for selectively attaching to a vehicle receiver hitch, said assembly comprising:
  - 5 a mounting including a male hitch coupler and a female hitch coupler being fixedly attached together and being substantially aligned with each other, wherein said male hitch coupler may be extended into and secured to the receiver hitch such that said female hitch coupler extends away from the receiver hitch;
  - 10 a pole being attached to and extending upwardly from said mounting, said pole having a front side and a back side, said pole having a break therein such that a first portion and a second portion are defined, said first portion abutting said mounting, a hinge hingedly couples said first portion to said second portion, said hinge being positioned on said front side of said pole;
  - 15 a rod for removably receiving a tire being attached to said pole and extending outwardly away from said front side of said pole, said rod being positioned on said second portion of said pole, said rod being threaded; and
  - a threaded locking member being selectively positionable on said rod.
- 20 2. (original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said first portion includes a first section and a second section being rotatably coupled together.
3. (original) The assembly of claim 2, further including a pair of flanges,
  - 25 each of said flanges being attached to one of said first and second sections and positioned generally adjacent to each other, at least one securing member being removably extendable through each of said flanges for preventing rotation of said first section with respect to said second section.

4. (original) The assembly of claim 1, further including a support being attached to said front side of said pole and extending away therefrom, said support being positioned on said second portion and generally adjacent to said break.

5. (original) The assembly of claim 1, further including a plate having an aperture extending therethrough for removably receiving said rod, said aperture being centrally disposed on said plate, wherein a tire may be positioned on said rod and said plate positioned adjacent to the tire and said locking member positioned on said rod for locking the plate in abutment to the tire.

6. (original) The assembly of claim 5, further including a rigid panel being attached to said back side of said pole.

7. (original) The assembly of claim 1, further including a rigid panel being attached to said back side of said pole.

8. (original) A spare tire holding assembly for selectively attaching to a vehicle receiver hitch, said assembly comprising:

a mounting including a male hitch coupler and a female hitch coupler being attached together, wherein said male hitch coupler may be extended into and secured to the receiver hitch such that said female hitch coupler extends away from the receiver hitch;

a pole being attached to and extending upwardly from said mounting, said pole having a front side and a back side, said pole having a break therein such that a first portion and a second portion are defined, said first portion abutting said mounting, a hinge hingedly couples said first portion to said second portion, said hinge being positioned on said front side of said pole, said first portion including a first section and a second section being rotatably coupled together;

a pair of flanges, each of said flanges being attached to one of said first and second sections and positioned generally adjacent to each other, at least

one securing member being removably extendable through each of said flanges for preventing rotation of said first section with respect to said second section;

5 a rod for removably receiving a tire being attached to said pole and extending outwardly away from said front side of said pole, said rod being positioned on said second portion of said pole, said rod being threaded;

a support being attached to said front side of said pole and extending away therefrom, said support being positioned on said second portion and generally adjacent to said break;

10 a plate having an aperture extending therethrough for removably receiving said rod, said aperture being centrally disposed on said plate, said plate having a generally circular shape;

a threaded locking member being selectively positionable on said rod, wherein a tire may be positioned on said rod and said plate positioned adjacent to the tire and said locking member positioned on said rod for locking the plate in abutment to the tire; and

15 a rigid panel being attached to said back side of said pole.